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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

10 June 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Milpitas - Six Women Rescued After Two-Year Human Trafficking Investigation

(U) A Milpitas couple was arrested yesterday in connection with a nearly two-year-long human trafficking investigation by police and the Santa Clara County District Attorney's office. According to authorities, the investigation began in late 2019 when a brothel was discovered in Milpitas. Detectives then discovered additional brothels in Milpitas, Palo Alto, and San Jose as part of the operation. Police said six women were rescued and nearly \$2 million was seized. On Wednesday, authorities arrested 57-year-old David Davies and his wife, 38-year-old Larong Hu. The couple was booked into Santa Clara County Jail on charges of pimping and pandering and felony conspiracy.

SOURCE: 9 June 2021, CBS 5 San Francisco

(U) San Francisco – SFPD Seizes 16-Pounds of Fentanyl in Operation

(U) The San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) says it seized 16-pounds of fentanyl in a recent bust. "The amount of fentanyl seized in this single operation is enough lethal overdoses to wipe out San Francisco's population four times over," said SFPD Chief Bill Scott. The fentanyl was found by SFPD narcotics officers while serving three warrants in Oakland, the department says. They believe they were intercepting drugs that were heading to San Francisco. Officers also found several guns, \$45,000 in cash, cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine. Five people were taken into custody.

SOURCE: 9 June 2021, ABC 7 News

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Colorado – Beef Supplier Paid Ransomware Hackers \$11 Million

(U) Greeley – JBS, the largest beef supplier in the world, paid the ransomware hackers who breached its computer networks approximately \$11 million, the company said yesterday. The company was hacked in May by REvil, one of a number of Russian-speaking hacker gangs, leading meat plants across the US and Australia to shut down for at least a day. Like many other ransomware groups, REvil has made millions in recent years by hacking organizations, encrypting their files and demanding fees, often large bitcoin payments, in exchange for a decryptor program, and a promise not to leak the files to the public. SOURCE: 9 June 2021, NBC News

(U) Florida – US Coast Guard Returns 82 Cuban Migrants in Separate Smuggling Events

(U) Miami – The US Coast Guard returned a total of 82 people to Cuba after stopping migrants at sea in eight instances south of the Florida Keys. The stops took place between the Middle and Lower Keys from 30 May through Friday, with five reported on Friday, the Coast Guard said in a news release. Migration attempts by sea are up significantly this year compared to the same time last year. In fiscal year 2020, the agency stopped 49 people making the dangerous journey across the Florida Straits. So far in this fiscal year, Coast Guard crews have interdicted 399 Cubans, according to the release. SOURCE: 9 June 2021, Miami Herald

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(U) North Carolina – Woman Accused of Selling Fake COVID-19 Cure

(U) Charlotte – A Charlotte woman faces an August court hearing after federal investigators charged her with peddling a fake COVID-19 cure during the height of the pandemic. Diana Daffin, 68, the owner of a holistic health business, was arrested outside her south Charlotte home in May after the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) accused her of shipping the supposed remedy drug HAMPL to an undercover agent in New Hampshire, according to an FDA news release at the time. According to the criminal complaint, the FDA first warned Daffin and the drug's manufacturer in April 2020 that she was selling "an adulterated, misbranded, and unapproved drug" and should take "immediate action to correct the violation," according to the FDA release. Daffin told the FDA she removed the product from her website, but Daffin continued selling unapproved HAMPL brand drugs even after the FDA warned her again in August 2020, prosecutors said in the complaint.

SOURCE: 9 June 2021, The Charlotte Observer

(U) Texas - Man Pleads Guilty in Plot to Attack Amazon Data Servers

(U) Dallas – A Wichita Falls man pleaded guilty yesterday to plotting to attack an Amazon Web Services data center, an act he hoped would "kill off about 70% of the Internet," federal authorities said. Seth Aaron Pendley, 28, pleaded guilty to a charge of malicious attempt to destroy a building with an explosive. He faces between five-and-20-years in prison when he is sentenced in federal court in October, according to the US Attorney's office for the Northern District of Texas. The investigation began in January after a tipster notified the FBI of posts made by a user on online forums used by militia supporters, according to the complaint filed against Pendley. Using the screen name Dionysus, Pendley claimed to have been in Washington, DC, during the 6 January insurrection at the US Capitol. SOURCE: 9 June 2021, The Dallas Morning News

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(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Qatar – Al Jazeera Network Hit with Cyber-Attack

(U) Doha – Pan-Arab satellite network Al Jazeera said it was subjected to continual hacking attempts over recent days but the cyberattack on Qatar's flagship broadcaster had been fended off. Al Jazeera's websites and platforms experienced "continued electronic attacks aimed at accessing, disrupting and controlling some of the news platforms" from last Saturday to Tuesday, the network said in a statement. "Al Jazeera's service provider was able to monitor and fend off all the hacking attacks and prevent them from achieving their goal," it said in a statement. The peak of the attacks came on Sunday ahead of a documentary described on Al Jazeera's Arabic YouTube channel as detailing indirect negotiations between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas.

SOURCE: 9 June 2021, Reuters

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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